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Taxi tiff takes turn

AIRPORT SERVICE

Union's claim of folding into Blueline fleet disputed

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The ongoing airport taxi dispute took a bizarre turn Wednesday after the drivers union, Unifor, said it was going to disband its members from the bargaining unit and fold into the Blueline fleet.

But Coventry Connections, the parent company that operates both fleets, swiftly disputed that claim and said that's not happening.

"It will be illegal for those drivers to work under Blueline without authority and recognition by Coventry and by the Blueline union," said Hanif Patni, president and CEO of Coventry Connections.

Unifor released a statement late Tuesday stating it is taking the position that since Coventry Connections removed the exclusive right for Airport Taxi YOW drivers to pick up customers at the Ottawa airport and opened up stands there to all taxi drivers, there is no need for a separate

collective agreement for airport taxi drivers.

The union's Eastern Ontario director, Harry Ghadban, said the airport drivers who were locked out should be given Blueline rooftop signs and access to the Blueline dispatch service immediately.

"If the company recognizes that they took away an exclusive stand so there's no necessity to have a separate collective agreement, all of these people are unionized and they fit into a bargaining unit description that currently applies, then the company should put them back to work under that bargaining unit," said Ghadban in an interview.

"If Coventry doesn't agree to it, this issue gets resolved by an arbitration or the Ontario Labour Relations Board."

The airport taxi dispute started in August after drivers refused to pay a higher fee to pick up passengers at the airport. The airport pickup fee jumped from \$1.50 to about \$5 — an increase drivers consider "corporate greed."

Patni said what Unifor is suggesting now would have to be put to a vote by Blueline drivers first. Although the Unifor statement said the airport labour dispute is "resolved," Patni said that is simply not true since there was no agreement.

“We are equally miffed by what these people are doing.”
Hanif Patni



Derin Emre, Ammar Kandil, Matt Dajer and Thomas Brag pose with the PM. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Trudeau takes a time out after his town hall
to spread holiday cheer with fellow Montrealers**
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Condo plan hits obstacle

GATINEAU

School says it won't sell land to developer for project



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A controversial condo project in Gatineau is facing another obstacle after a nearby private school announced it would not sell part of the land planned for development.

Brigil development's Place des Peuples plan, which has not yet been brought to city council, would involve building two massive condo towers on Laurier just north of the Canadian Museum of History.

Brigil was hoping to obtain a parking lot owned by the College Saint-Joseph de Hull as part of the project.

But board members of the college told Le Droit newspaper Monday it never agreed to sell.

Nicole Paquin, president of the board, told the newspaper that the massive towers threaten the heritage feeling of the neighbourhood and they do not support the project.

She said construction activities would threaten enrolment at the school and they are not planning on selling the land or relocating the campus.

Yves Ducharme, a spokesperson for Brigil developments, said the project will continue.

"It's half a lot and it would have allowed us to bring the



An artistic rendering of the Place des Peuples towers proposed for downtown Gatineau. CONTRIBUTED

main tower back towards Notre Dame Street," said Ducharme.

"We would have liked to use it but we will just advise our architects to proceed as needed. We're just going to push forward the tower."

Ducharme said rather than ruin the area, the towers would help protect the historically significant neighbourhood by making it a destination.

"The project would be the perfect transition for the downtown core," he said.

The project has yet to receive the go-ahead from Gatineau's city council. The official proposal is expected to go to council in January.

TOWERS DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT MUSEUM

Brigil's Place des Peuples project has divided Gatineau since it was unveiled at a Canadian Museum of History gala last month.

The \$400-million project would occupy an entire block along rue Laurier just north of the iconic Gatineau museum. Two towers, one 35 storeys and the other 55 storeys, would be linked at the base with architecture that would mimic the museum.

Both the museum and the

towers are designed by renowned Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal and are part of the designer's original plan for the "museum quarter."

The towers would house condos and a four or five-star hotel along with an observation deck on the top floor.

An online petition has gathered close to 1,000 signatures in support. The property would be expected to bring in \$8 million per

year in income taxes.

Despite the economic boost, a number of residents have also raised concerns about the impact construction will have on the heritage neighbourhood and existing buildings.

The project has ended up being so controversial that Gatineau Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin told Le Droit newspaper that he was considering a citywide referendum on the project.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

APPEAL

Court clears teachers



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Two Ashbury College teachers have been cleared of any wrongdoing after they were previously found guilty of professional misconduct regarding their handling of a sexual assault involving a student on a school trip in 2007.

The college's head of school, Norman Southward, issued a statement Wednesday to students and staff to say Alyssa Novick and Ian Middleton "have been fully exonerated" after winning their appeal in Ontario Divisional Court last week. The teachers launched an appeal against the Ontario College of Teachers Disciplinary Committee in 2014.

The committee rendered a misconduct finding against the pair for failing to immediately notify the parents of a 16-year-old student who was sexually assaulted by some of his classmates.

The young man, who can't be identified as he was the victim of a sexual assault, was attacked by two classmates, while another videotaped the assault and a fourth watched, in a Boston hotel room in 2007.

"The decision of the OCT Discipline Committee is quashed and all allegations ... have now been dismissed," Southward said.

In November 2014, the discipline committee issued a penalty against the two teachers, who at the time were still teaching at the Ottawa school.

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Trudeau slams politics of fear

TOWN HALL

The PM took questions in a televised event held at the NAC

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is condemning fear-mongering by politicians, calling it ignorant and irresponsible.

In a televised town hall meeting sponsored by Maclean's magazine, the prime minister was asked about his reaction to outspoken American presidential candidate Donald Trump.

He first shied away from commenting on another country's election, saying Canada must have a relationship with whoever wins next year's presidential vote.

However, he said, he is happy to share his feelings on the politics of division.

Diversity, he says, makes people stronger, not weaker.

Fear, he adds, doesn't make anyone safer.

"I don't think it comes as a surprise to anybody that I stand firmly against the politics of division, the politics of fear, the politics of intolerance or hateful rhetoric," he said.

Trump, the boisterous businessman who is leading in the polls among candidates for the Republican nomination, has attacked immigration and suggested that Muslims be barred from entering the United States.

Without mentioning Trump's name, Trudeau decried his politics.

"If we allow politicians to succeed by scaring people, we don't actually end up any safer," he



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau participates in a town hall meeting with moderator Paul Wells, Wednesday. LEFT: Trudeau reacts as he is asked a question about the new Star Wars movie.

PHOTOS BY: ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

a broad brush that extends to all Muslims is not just ignorant, it is irresponsible."

Trudeau also spoke about ways of dealing with the international community that look back to the "soft power" of earlier Liberal regimes and not the harsh rhetoric of the last Conservative government.

The Harper government "spent a lot of time talking about strength and tough and taking swings at all of its opponents," the prime minister said.

"I took a very different approach that was much more inclusive, much friendlier, much



Painting ISIS and others with a broad brush that extends to all Muslims is not just ignorant, it is irresponsible.

Justin Trudeau

more focused on listening and engaging and solving problems rather than creating conflicts and Canadians responded very positively to that," Trudeau said.

"Now, why would citizens in the international community be any different?"

He said you don't always need to be tough. "So, I don't see being smart and reasonable in how we engage with others as a sign of weakness."

During the hour-long program at the National Arts Centre, the prime minister fielded questions from journalists, the audience and people on social media.

He was quizzed on everything from tax policy to refugees, to his shoes and the latest Star Wars movie — which he said was very good. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TAKE-AWAYS FROM
PM'S TOWN HALL

The media and the public asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about CF-18s, Donald Trump and everything in between at a Maclean's town hall Wednesday at the National Arts Centre.

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

1 CF-18s

Justin Trudeau said U.S. President Barack Obama hasn't asked him to reconsider his pledge to withdraw Canada's CF-18 fighter jets from the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

"I've made it very clear that our commitment was to withdraw the CF-18s," Trudeau said. "He didn't ask me to keep those in, nor would I have kept them in if he had asked me."

2 Charm offensive

Trudeau was asked about his charm offensive since taking office, such as posing in Vogue magazine.

"It's not about image. It's about substance," he said. "That's what so many of my political opponents haven't understood."

Trudeau said serving Canadians well means listening to them and engaging in "real conversations." It also means talking to a broad range of publications.

3 Donald Trump

Asked about U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump's politics, Trudeau shied away from commenting directly on U.S. politics. But without mentioning Trump's name, he slammed "the politics of intolerance and hateful rhetoric."

"If we allow politicians to succeed by scaring people, we don't actually end up any safer. Fear doesn't make us safer, it makes us weaker," Trudeau said. "We need to remain focused on keeping our communities safe and keeping our communities united instead of trying to build walls and scapegoat communities."

"Painting (ISIL) and others with a broad brush that extends to all Muslims is not just ignorant, it is irresponsible."

Kids join Trudeau
to see Star Wars

MOVIES

CHEO patients
sworn to
secrecy about
film's plot

It's not exactly the Official Secrets Act, but it's close.

Eleven kids from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) in Ottawa had to swear not to disclose the plot of the upcoming Star Wars: The Force Awakens until it comes out in theatres Friday.

For that, they got to attend a private preview on Tuesday night with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"Last night they were treated like royalty," Isabelle Mailloux of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Foundation said in an interview.

"He made them feel special," Mailloux said. "Each one was a special guest. It was adorable."



The group photo Prime Minister Justin Trudeau posted on his Twitter account. TWITTER

The children ranged from eight to 18 and have a variety of ailments. Some are being treated for cancer. One has lost a leg. Another is on dialysis.

"They were sworn to secrecy about the plot of the movie until it comes out," Mailloux said. "They loved that too."

They all had their photos taken with Trudeau and are

eager for the photos to arrive, Mailloux said.

"They said, 'No one's going to believe us tomorrow at school.'"

In the meantime, they can point to a tweet sent out from @JustinTrudeau featuring a group photo alongside the prime minister.

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Lees resident Mohamed Khalil is concerned there won't be enough early morning service downtown from Lees station once the Transitway closes to construction. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

OC TRANSPO

Petition seeks more Lees station service



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Two neighbours want OC Transpo to up its downtown service when it closes the Transitway at Lees station next week.

Tanya Hiebert and Mohamed Khalil have started an online petition ahead of a plan to detour most buses around Lees during light rail construction. Beginning Sunday, only routes 85 and 16 will still take Lees passengers downtown, and the pair say early morning service is lacking.

The weekday 16 will come at 6:16 a.m. and 6:41 a.m., although Hiebert said it "takes a nice little detour" through Sandy Hill before arriving downtown. The first 85 leaves at 7:05 a.m.

It's all too late for Hiebert, who starts work at 6:30 a.m. Khalil will have to leave earlier and transfer to make his 8 a.m. Algonquin classes, he said. Other passengers are organizing taxi-sharing groups to get around.

The friends said they aren't "anti-OC Transpo," but they want the transit operator to talk to residents before making changes.

"It's an easy solution to have an extra two or three buses in the early morning," Khalil said.

Assistant general manager Pat Scrimgeour said OC Transpo has been informing passengers about detours for more than a month. He said there's some flexibility to fill service gaps if they've missed something.

"They don't need to do a petition," he said, "they just need to tell us."

IN BRIEF

Arrest warrant issued for robbery suspect

Ottawa police have issued a warrant for a man they allege is behind a series of pharmacy robberies.

Police say four robberies took place between Oct. 3-5 at pharmacies on Montreal Road, Innes Road, Strandherd Drive and Bank Street.

Police say each time a man entered the pharmacy and produced a note demanding money and prescription drugs. They say a second suspect was spotted

in two of the robberies outside the pharmacy and in a vehicle.

Joseph Arial, 39, of Ottawa is charged with four counts of conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, two counts of attempting to commit an indictable offence, two counts robbery, one count of vehicle theft and one count of possession of stolen property.

Police say they are still investigating the second suspect. METRO

Raceway locks out staff

RIDEAU-CARLETON

Casino reduces hours due to labour dispute



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The Rideau-Carleton Raceway is operating on reduced hours after an ongoing labour dispute ended in a lockout Tuesday evening.

The 124 affected staff members who work in the slots area as cashiers and housekeepers have been without a contract since Jan. 1, 2014.

"These are people who have not received a raise in six years," said Doug Marshall, national president of the Union of National Employees, part of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

"Our members are receiving significantly less than other OLG workers elsewhere in the province," he said.

Marshall noted that last year the OLG made \$2 billion in profit. He said the union is also concerned about changes to their pension plan if the casino is privatized.

Locked-out employees were picketing at the raceway Wednesday.

Rui Brum, spokesman for the OLG, said the organization did

not want to lock out employees right before the holidays but had no choice after a strike vote was passed.

"They kicked off the process. We simply can't have our employees walking off the floor at any time."

Brum said the proposed contract did offer wage increases.

The casino normally operates 24 hours a day, but will now open from noon to midnight every day of the week.

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Few indigenous homicides unsolved: OPP

REPORT

Only nine out of 180 killings remain under investigation

An Ontario Provincial Police report on missing and murdered indigenous people in their jurisdiction says very few cases remain unsolved.

The report shows 54 indigenous women were killed between 1956 and 2014 — and eight cases remain unsolved.

Forty indigenous men reported missing during that time still haven't been found, and police say foul play is suspected for more than half.

Police are still looking for eight indigenous women reported missing between 1957 and 2014 and say foul play is suspected in one case.

During the period of 1978 to 2014, 126 indigenous men were killed, with only one case still unsolved — although police say they hope their report will stir new leads.

Det. Supt. Dave Truax says there's no evidence any of the slayings were the work of a serial killer.

The report does not cover cities that have their own police force, but OPP say they're

releasing the data to spark a conversation about the issue of missing and murdered indigenous people.

Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day says the report confirms once again that far too many First Nations people are victims of terrible crimes.

Most indigenous families feel the justice system works differently for them than for non-indigenous people, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chief Isadore Day says indigenous families feel the justice system treats them differently. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SENATE SCANDAL

Duffy on defensive as Crown presses

After six days of sharing memories and grievances about life in the Conservative fold, Sen. Mike Duffy on Wednesday faced the Crown's scrutiny of his version of events and of the particulars of where he actually lives.

Prosecutor Mark Holmes zeroed in on the heart of the trial: why Duffy began filing living-expense claims after his 2009 appointment to the Senate, when he was residing in exactly the same place in suburban Ottawa.

The senator has pleaded not guilty to 31 counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, related to his contested Senate office and living expenses. Many of those charges are linked to the fact that Duffy made claims on

the basis that his primary residence was a cottage in Prince Edward Island.

Duffy became testy or sarcastic at times during Holmes' cross-examination, at one point telling him he wouldn't entertain a particular line of questioning.

The prosecution pressed Duffy on his argument that the Senate's form designating residency is "a trap" because it requires senators to indicate the primary residence "in the province you represent."

Holmes pointed out that even if Duffy filled out that form declaring his primary residence was in P.E.I., he didn't have to file for a housing allowance and per diem living expenses afterward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sen. Mike Duffy, former member of the Conservative caucus, testifies in Ottawa on Tuesday. GREG BANNING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ACCOUNTABILITY

Ombudsman gets new powers over city councils

Ontarians with complaints about services within their municipalities will soon have recourse to the province's chief watchdog.

Acting Ombudsman Barbara Finlay says her office will have new powers to investigate complaints against municipal councils effective Jan. 1.

The expected mandate comes through the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, which also gives the

Ombudsman's office the authority to examine complaints related to public school boards and universities.

The change comes after a particularly active period for city-council meetings that were closed to the public between Sept. 1, 2014 and Aug. 31 of this year.

Finlay released a report saying her office received 195 complaints about closed council meetings, reviewed 85 of them and found 16 to be illegal.

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CONCERT PRIMER

Don't look babo: Read this first

Expect some vocal cord damage: This is not the orchestra. You, as an audience member, are encouraged — nay, required — to scream and cheer as enthusiastically and as fan-girlishly as you can throughout the show. Your idols won't accept anything less.

Daebak

If you're wowed by your new favourite K-pop band, try to remember to shout "daebak" now and then.

And if you've suddenly fallen for the group's maknae (the youngest), you won't look babo (stupid) if you scream "saranghaeyo" as loud as you can.

Glow sticks

Once you pick a favourite band, prove your undying love by purchasing their signature glow stick.

Most K-pop groups have an official glow stick colour, and one glance over the screaming audience will tell performers who's cheering for them.

YouTube it first

While K-pop choreography can be intricate, most K-pop groups include a choreographic "hook" in their dance routines, something repetitive that fans can learn quickly.

YouTube groups like BTS, SuperJunior or Girls Generation and get grooving ahead of Saturday's gala.

Don't debate

The concept of "the best K-pop band" is controversial to say the least, according to Kapital K-dance director Amanda Smith-Millar.

How do you quantify it? Internet buzz? Longevity? The number of cover bands aping their routines? Best to just enjoy the show.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO



Members of the Kapital K-dance club perform at their annual recital. There's a K-pop gala at the Museum of History Saturday. COURTESY JAKE CURTIS ALVARO

K-pop hits the capital

CULTURE

High-energy dance and song will get you screaming



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Grab your glow sticks and get ready to show some K-pop love as some of Canada's best cover bands perform a free show at the Museum of History this Saturday.

The Hallyu Association of Canada, a Korean culture promoter, has partnered with the Korean embassy to host a three-

day K-pop dance festival in the capital, starting with three dance workshops hosted by Los Angeles K-pop expert MVP Elite and Better Swagg from Seoul on Thursday and Friday.

A free dance gala on Saturday night will bring 13 of the year's best K-pop cover groups from Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa together to dance and lip-sync their way through their favourite Korean hits.

For the uninitiated, K-pop is quite simply Korean pop music. Most of it is made by large boy or girl bands of up to 20 people each, who pull from hip hop, rock and pop for inspiration.

Their singing and rapping is backed up, usually, by intricate, synchronized street-



It's an amazing marriage between new styles of dance and old school ways of putting them together.

Amanda Smith-Millar, Kapital K-dance director

style dance.

The over-the-top genre is best suited to a sold-out arena full of screaming fans, and groups like Super Junior, Girls' Generation and BTS have reached idol status in Korea.

K-pop's popularity has been growing across Canada and in Ottawa in particular, sparking a growing interest in learning how to dance like a K-pop star, said Asma Abdourahman, who speaks for the Hallyu Association.

There are four K-pop clubs in the city right now. Amanda Smith-Millar runs Kapital K-dance, and her non-profit club will open Saturday's show with a 26-person rendition of Shake That Brass by Amber, a solo star who earned fame in the Korean girl group f(x).

Smith-Millar said K-pop's mesmerizing style convinced her to start dancing.

"It's an amazing marriage between new styles of dance and old school ways of putting

them together," she said.

Watching K-pop likely won't be "love at first sight" for newcomers, she said, but the work involved is obvious.

"These dances are spectacularly well-crafted and the choreography is fantastic," Smith-Millar said.

Abdourahman agreed.

"These are teams that have been practising for months for one routine," she said. "They are extremely dedicated to their performances. It's really amazing how much work they put into it."

Saturday's gala begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. The free tickets are nearly all gone, but can be reserved at hallyuassociationofcanada.ca

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Mayor Jim Watson met with local Liberal MPs at his office Wednesday, including Environment Minister and Ottawa Centre MP Catherine McKenna and Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Francis Drouin. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

City expects 130 refugees by year's end

SYRIAN CRISIS

Up to 500 more set to arrive by March: Mayor



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

About 130 Syrian refugees are expected to resettle in Ottawa before Dec. 31, with up to another 500 arriving by the end of February, Mayor Jim Watson said Wednesday.

Watson said while those numbers are "fluid," that's what the federal government has told the city to anticipate.

"We've been told by the federal government that we can anticipate approximately 130 refugees by the end of this month, and then we would see about 300 to 500 at the beginning of the year in January and February," Watson said after meeting with local Lib-

eral members of Parliament on Wednesday.

He had previously said the city could accommodate between 800 and 2,000 of the 25,000 Syrian refugees the federal government has promised to resettle in Canada by March.

The first planeload of Syrian refugees arrived last Thursday in Toronto, and two others have since arrived. At least four passengers on a plane that arrived Tuesday were destined for Ottawa.

Immigration Minister John McCallum said the next planeload is set to arrive on Friday, then the pace is expected to pick up to an average of two planes a day until the end of the year.

So far, just over 1,100 Syrians have landed in Canada of the 10,000 the Liberals have promised to bring over by year's end. But the pace of screening and other efforts has dramatically picked up in recent days.

— WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

LEBRETON FLATS

Watson hoped for more than two bidders

A day after only two groups submitted proposals to redevelop LeBreton Flats — both including arenas — Mayor Jim Watson said he was expecting more.

"I was hoping that there would be the four bidders that would give different visions for what LeBreton would look like," he said after meeting with four local MPs at his office on Wednesday.

"I'm not sure why the other

two bidders stepped back. ... Hopefully we'll get more of that information from the NCC."

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, the city's representative at the cabinet table and the MP for Ottawa Centre — which includes LeBreton Flats — said she was due to meet with the NCC on Wednesday to get more details.

"This is a key piece of land, and I think as the mayor said,

it would be great to see a broad range of options and consultations around those options," she said.

Those plans, as they stand, are a two-day open house Jan. 26-27 to showcase the proposals, followed by a period of online feedback.

Watson also ruled out contributing city taxpayer money to a possible arena when asked about the matter.

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO



Only two of four possible groups submitted proposals for the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats. COURTESY NCC

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CORRECTION

A story that appeared in Wednesday's Metro incorrectly reported that Rideau-Rockcliffe Coun. Tobi Nussbaum was elected after Peter Clark retired.

In fact, Nussbaum — a senior bureaucrat and lawyer who co-founded the Beechwood Village Alliance and was president of the Lindenlea Community Association — defeated political

veteran Clark in the 2014 municipal election.

Nussbaum received 4,846 votes, or 47.19 per cent of the vote. Clark received 1,871 votes, or 18.22 per cent of the vote.

A total of 10,497 ballots were cast in the ward, according to the City of Ottawa, and voter turnout was 39.85 per cent. Metro regrets the error.

Five musical shakers of 2015

BACKSTAGE PASS

Ottawa's scene features an abundance of major talent



Trevor Greenway
For Metro | Ottawa

The past 12 months have been an incredible, wild musical ride in Ottawa and anyone who thinks the nation's capital doesn't have talent clearly doesn't know what good music is.

There have been massive warehouse parties, anniversaries galore, musical crusaders and a SXSW-style music festival that transformed the Glebe for a week in September.

But behind all this good stuff are even greater people. Musicians and organizations that are willing to do almost anything to better the Ottawa vibe.

Many of them have grinding day jobs, kids, demand-

ing schedules — but yet, week after week, they come out and make beautiful art.

It's time to say thanks. Here's a list of the five most influential music peeps that have made 2015 so awesome.



Rolf Klausener CONTRIBUTED

Rolf Klausener

When Rolf isn't whipping you into a fitful frenzy on the dance floor with one of his many bands like The Acorn or Silkken Laumann, the multi-instrumentalist is on the ground, fighting for the city's art scene.

Rolf is so much more than just a musician. He's a

crusader for all things art in the city.

Oh yeah, he also made the Polarix longlist for his Acorn record *Vieux Loup*.



DJ Illo CONTRIBUTED

DJ Illo

If Ian Lloyd a.k.a DJ Illo has done what so many DJs in the world haven't been able to do: Make a full career out of DJing while still holding down family life. But what makes him so respected is that he never forgets where he came from. It would be easy for Illo to tour the country for the rest of his life and not blink. But this cat always comes back

to play small club shows for his hometown crowd. An amazing DJ, but an even greater person.



Memetic and Zattar CONTRIBUTED

Memetic and Zattar

Alexandre Mattar and Kwende Kefentse not only get a nod for 2015, but for every year in between since 2005. The two soul DJs have been throwing down one of the city's best underground dance parties in Timecode. Ottawa has been feeling the soul jams every single month for a full decade and it's all thanks to Memetic and Zattar.



Mark Monahan
TREVOR GREENWAY/FOR METRO

Mark Monahan

Monahan, who is behind Bluesfest and CityFolk, also created Marvest, a three-day local music showcase that featured over 60 bands that jammed out in both traditional and unconventional venues. Think bike shops, grocery stores and little nook-and-cranny cafés. Monahan built something special here — a vehicle to expose Ottawa's deep talent pool in a fun and exciting way. More of this, please.



DNA Presents CONTRIBUTED

DNA Presents

The entire crew at DNA Presents really got my attention this year. Aside from giving college students and electronic music lovers something forward to almost every single weekend, DNA took a massive step in 2015 by setting in motion plans for a Heineken Escapade Interactive — a weeklong celebration of everything Canadian leading up to Canada's birthday next July. DNA started something big when they first booked Deadmau5 in 2010.



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Single word almost kills UN-led climate bargain

'SHALL'

Canadian apologizes for error in document

A single one-syllable, five-letter word almost scuttled the Paris climate deal, and it was a Canadian who had to literally sit in front of the world and sort it out at the 11th hour.

Not to mention apologize for an error the United States would never accept if allowed to stand.

The apology came from Winnipeg-born Richard Kinley. Previously an official with the Canadian government, Kinley is second-in-command to Christiana Figueres, executive secretary to the UN-led Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This means Kinley manages the UN's climate shop, including the behind-the-scenes machinery that led to the final Paris text — version 19 — which carried the following contentious



Clockwise from left: French Foreign Minister and COP21 President Laurent Fabius with UN General Secretary of the Climate Convention Christiana Figueres, COP21 General Secretary Pierre-Henri Guignard and UN Deputy Executive Secretary of the Climate Change Secretariat Richard Kinley, during the COP21 conference on Dec. 2. ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

line: "Developed country parties shall continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets."

The problem word is "shall." In international law that seemingly benign word creates a legally binding commitment. But, such obligations require Senate approval in the U.S. — at least as

they relate to emissions targets. If the "shall" were allowed to stay, there would be no chance U.S. President Barack Obama could secure domestic support for the agreement. Republicans in the Senate would vote it down, and the Paris climate change deal would fall apart.

There were two options: re-

open the text for further revision, which risked having other countries step forward with other demands, or admit the mistake. The latter option was chosen, and it was Kinley who had to break the news that the word "shall" was the wrong word. It needed to be changed to "should."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IMMIGRATION

Integration key to student success

A sweeping new study of immigrant students around the world shows they do best in countries that bring them into regular classrooms as quickly as possible, where teachers feel comfortable working with children of different backgrounds and where extra help is offered to immigrant families — all hallmarks of GTA schools.

The 124-page report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to be released Thursday, looks at how immigrant students in some 30 countries, including Canada, performed on a standardized test in the "3 Rs" in 2012, and concludes

their success depends largely on how the host country helps them integrate in school.

"Immigrant students perform better and report feeling more accepted in some countries than others, which suggests education policy has an impact on integration," said the report, Immigrant Students at School: Easing the Journey towards Integration.

It suggests the countries that best help immigrant students succeed move them into regular classrooms while giving them a crash course in their new language, rather than segregate them until they have mastered the language, as happens in some countries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Canada presses North Korea for access to pastor

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed "tremendous concern" at the life sentence handed to a Canadian pastor in North Korea on Wednesday. Hyeon Soo Lim was sentenced for "crimes against the state." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black endorses Trump

Donald Trump hasn't received too many ringing endorsements from famous conservative elites — but he's just received praise from one Canadians know well. Conrad Black has penned a piece titled, "Trump Is The Good Guy." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Halo Kitty

Russian Orthodox Church puts the "cat" in Catholic with new calendar

A group of Christian enthusiasts has released a calendar showing an unexpected face of the Russian Orthodox Church: cat-loving priests.

The Priest and Cat calendar released earlier this month by photographer Anna Galperina and editor Ksenia Luchenko shows 12 Orthodox priests at their homes posing with their cats.

Luchenko said the idea was totally spontaneous but it can now be viewed as a Russian Orthodox answer to the annual Italian Calendario Romano, featuring handsome young priests of the Roman Catholic Church,

and the Gatti di Roma calendar filled with Rome's cats.

Luchenko said some of priests refused to be photographed, fearing that the project would be too "pop."

"To be honest, it feels a bit strange, when you call priests and ask: 'Father, tell me please, do you have a cat? Oh, you do? Great!' she said. 'So the initial reaction was a bit wary.'"

Father Pyotr Dynnikov who posed as Mr. February said he liked the idea because the calendar lends the church a lighter and less official dimension.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



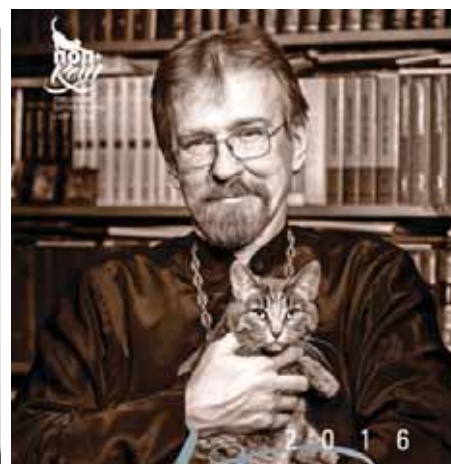
A small sampling of 12 months of monks and their cats:

1 Russian monk Grigory (Pobozhin) with his cat Koshka

2 Russian monk Feodorit (Senchukov) with Monya

3 Russian clergyman Sergei Kruglov with his cat Shurik

ALL IMAGES ANNA GALPERINA/ARTOS/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Refugees mistreated in Turkey: Rights group

Amnesty International says Turkey has rounded up refugees and asylum-seekers since September and transported them to detention centres where some were mistreated or forcibly returned to Syria and Iraq. Amnesty said the EU risks being "complicit in serious human rights violations."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cosby lawsuit moved to federal court

A lawsuit against Bill Cosby is being moved to federal court. His accuser, Renita Hill, 48, sued in October claiming Cosby drugged and had sex with her several times after they met on a children's educational TV show in 1983.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Qataris abducted in Iraq

In a remote desert area in southern Iraq, unidentified gunmen driving in SUVs raided a camp for falconry hunters on Wednesday, abducting up to 26 Qataris, Iraqi officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wife, husband must share surname: Japan court

Japan's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that requiring married couples to have the same surname is constitutional, dealing a blow to a longtime effort for gender equality.

The law does not say which partner must give up his or her name. In practice, it has been the woman. Kaori Okuni, one of the plaintiffs, was deeply disappointed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



New Bedford Whaling Museum senior maritime historian Michael Dyer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESEARCH

Whaling logs reveal climate change

Maritime historians, climate scientists and ordinary citizens are coming together on a project to study the logbooks of 19th-century whaling ships to better understand modern-day climate change.

Whaling ships kept meticulous daily logbooks of weather

conditions during their often years-long voyages searching the globe for whales, valued for their light-giving oil, said Michael Dyer, senior maritime historian at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, which is supplying much of the data.

Some logs include informa-

tion about life on board, and of course, notations whenever whales are spotted. More important for this project, they include precise longitude and latitude measurements, weather conditions, the presence of icebergs and the edge of the ice shelf.

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UNITED STATES

Mistrial in first Freddie Gray case

The first effort to find a police officer criminally responsible for Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck in a police van ended Wednesday with a hung jury and a mistrial in Baltimore, Md.

Six officers have been charged in Gray's death. William Porter has been accused of failing to get medical help for a wounded Gray and has been charged with assault, manslaughter, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment.

It was not immediately clear whether he will face a retrial. Circuit Judge Barry Williams planned to discuss a possible retrial with both sides in his chambers on Thursday.

Gray, 25, who had been suspected of possessing an illegal switchblade, was arrested while fleeing from officers and died April 19, a week after his

“

We cannot be defined by the unrest of the spring

Baltimore Mayor
Stephanie Rawlings Blake

neck was broken inside a police van. He had been left handcuffed, shackled and face-down on the van's floor. An autopsy concluded he probably couldn't brace himself whenever the van turned a corner or braked suddenly.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake and the new police commissioner she installed after the riots following Gray's death warned people against more violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Charlie Hebdo gifts \$4M to victims

Charlie Hebdo, the satirical newspaper in Paris whose staff had been decimated by Islamic extremist gunmen and then beset by internal tensions over

an unexpected influx of donations and readers, said Wednesday it will turn over all the money to victims of the three days of attacks in January.

A pair of French-born brothers killed 12 people during an editorial meeting on Jan. 7. The publication had been targeted for its caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

The three days of attacks, co-ordinated with a third man targeting a kosher supermarket

and policewoman, left a total of 17 dead before the gunmen were shot to death in police raids.

Suddenly flush with cash from donations and a global readership, the weekly saw tension among surviving staff, in large part over the money.

In a statement Wednesday, Charlie Hebdo said it would turn over nearly \$4.4 million US, and that the French government had appointed an oversight committee to determine how the money would be redistributed in coming weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

84

The number of countries from which Charlie Hebdo received donations. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Waves crash during a November gale at Lake Superior's Government Beach in Ontario. A new study suggests Lake Superior is the second-fastest-warming lake in the world, and that lakes on average are warming faster than the climate as a whole.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Freshwater lakes are heating up fast

CLIMATE

Lake Superior second-fastest warming lake in world: study

Our rapidly warming world has another high-profile victim — lakes.

An alarming new study says freshwater lakes are warming at more than twice the pace of oceans, and Lake Superior is the second-fastest warming lake in the world, behind Sweden's Lake Fracksjon.

The rest of the Great Lakes are also faring dismally, the study says, putting native fish in jeopardy, increasing the risk

of invasive species and raising fears of widespread algae blooms.

The study, by a team of international scientists, analyzed data from hundreds of lakes around the world. It found that summer surface temperatures rose by about 0.34 C on average between 1985 and 2009.

That may not sound like a lot, acknowledged Sapna Sharma, the lead author of the study and an assistant professor in the faculty of science at York University. But put that in context with air temperatures and ocean temperature increase and “you see there is a big difference,” she said.

Average air temperatures over the same period have warmed about 0.24 C, while

oceans have warmed about 0.11 C, she said.

Lakes that are covered with ice in winter, like most Canadian lakes, are warming twice as fast because the lakes are increasingly ice-free earlier and for longer periods.

“By the time you get to summer, there is a longer period of open ice and more time for lakes to warm faster,” Sharma said.

The Great Lakes are also facing an increase in solar radiation, another factor for the rapid warming of freshwater lakes.

The study, published Wednesday in Geophysical Research Letters, examined data from 236 lakes. Some readings came from NASA satellites; others came from data collected on the ground. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

0.34

Average degrees in Celsius by which summer surface lake temperatures have risen between 1985-2009.

0.24

Average degrees in Celsius by which air temperatures have risen in the same time period.

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FINANCIAL FUTURE

Parents put off retirement to help kids

Half of Canadian parents say they would postpone retirement because of concerns about the financial future of their children.

Parents with children aged 18 to 24 said they were willing to trade some of their own financial security to help out their kids in a changing economy, BMO Wealth Management said in a report.

Half said they would be willing to retire later than planned,

one-third said they would save less for retirement, and 22 per cent said they would take on debt.

Roughly the same proportion who said they would retire later than planned said they received little or no support from their parents when they were young adults themselves.

22%

The percentage of parents who said they would take on debt to help their kids in a changing economy.

The biggest financial concern for parents about their children was financial problems caused by debt, followed by difficulties achieving financial independence and insufficient employment.

The so-called millennial generation of those born after 1980 faces different economic realities than

their parents, especially after the 2008 financial crisis.

The number of contract workers has grown more than four times faster than the number of full-time employees since 2008, according to Statistics Canada. The number of Canadians aged 25 to 44 in full-time employment is up 1.2 per cent since 2008, compared with a 24.9 per cent rise in contract work.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



COMPUTER LITERACY PUSH TO CREATE TECHIE TYKES

Third-grader Jaysean Erby solves a coding problem as Apple CEO Tim Cook watches from behind during a coding workshop at an Apple Store in New York last week. There's a push across the U.S. to improve computer literacy in elementary school, and entrepreneurs are jumping aboard. But some critics warn that pushing advanced concepts on younger kids could frustrate them and turn them off computer science completely. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Canada, U.S. to part ways

INTEREST RATE

BoC won't match Federal Reserve hike, expert predicts

The U.S. Federal Reserve raised its interest rate Wednesday, exerting downward pressure on the loonie that has been steadily dropping in recent months as global oil prices plunged.

The American central bank lifted its key rate by a quarter-point to a range of 0.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent, ending a seven-year period of near-zero borrowing rates.

Scott Guitard, a portfolio manager at Fiduciary Trust Canada, said climbing American interest rates will likely mean the opposite for the Canadian dollar.

He also predicts Canada's central bank will stick with

+ ECONOMY

Faith restored

Wednesday's action reflects the U.S. Federal Reserve's belief that the American economy has finally regained enough strength 6 ½ years after the Great Recession ended to withstand modestly higher borrowing rates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

its decision to hold steady on its key lending rate even if the loonie falls further because of enduring low oil prices.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, speaking ahead of the announcement, said it was a good sign the American economy was seeing a resurgence, but promised to examine the challenges that a lower dollar poses for the Canadian economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Shaw buying Wind Mobile

Shaw Communications has reached an agreement to buy Wind Mobile in a transaction valued at \$1.6 billion. The Calgary-based telecommunications company says it will acquire a full interest in parent company Mid-Bowline Group, which owns Wind. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE SENATE SCANDAL (IT'S STILL ON)



“Gone are the days when the re-election of a government, the reputation of a sitting prime minister or the ascent of an Opposition leader could hang in the balance of the Duffy trial.”

It is not totally true to say that the legal travails of Stephen Harper's former star senator are no longer of any real consequence to anyone but himself. A dozen of Mike Duffy's past and present Senate colleagues have cause to wait for the trial verdict with baited breath.

They are on the list of current or ex-senators whose expense claims were brought to the attention of the RCMP over the past two years. Take Pamela Wallin, who is back in the upper house since the election. There has not been a word on where she stands since the RCMP reportedly transferred her file to the Crown prosecutors last summer.

The odds that the other senators engulfed in the scandal will be charged and/or taken to trial stand to decrease if Duffy is found not guilty of all or most of the 31 criminal charges laid against him.

That being said, gone are the days when the re-election of a government, the reputation of a sitting prime minister or the ascent of a prosecutorial Opposition leader could be presumed to hang in the balance of the Duffy trial.

At this time last year, Duffy, Harper and Thomas Mulcair were the leading co-stars in a high-stakes political drama that was deemed to have the potential to reshape the electoral landscape.

Harper is headed for political retirement, but not mostly for what the Duffy trial has brought to light.

Twelve months later, there has yet to be a definitive resolution to the Senate spending saga but the storyline has fizzled out; the audience has lost interest; the spotlight has shifted and the curtain has fallen in whole or in part on its main protagonists.

That is as good a measure of what a difference a year in politics can make.

At this time last year, Harper looked well placed to make electoral history by winning a fourth consecutive mandate. The rise to pre-eminence of the security issue in the wake of the Parliament Hill shootings had given his party a second wind. For the first time since the Senate scandal, the Conservatives were seeing positive omens in public

opinion.

That gave rise to trepidation about the upcoming Duffy trial and even talk of an early election to minimize the risks.

These days, most Harper-related speculation is of an idle variety. It revolves around the timing of his definitive departure from the House of Commons. Most expect it will come sooner rather than later. Some wonder why it has not happened yet.

For the record, there is nothing exceptional about the fact that Harper is still an MP. It may be one of the more normal features of his exit from politics. Paul Martin was defeated in January 2006 but resigned his seat only in March.

As for Mulcair, 12 long

months ago he was basking in the glowing reviews of his performance as chief-questioner of the government in the Commons.

The NDP leader was never more on a roll than over the time of the Senate scandal. It was in its wake that he came to have a larger-than-life presence in question period. He will probably go down in modern Canadian history as the official Opposition leader who will have asked the most questions of a government over the course of a single session.

A year later, Mulcair's parliamentary persona feels too big for the support role of leader of the third party in the House. In the new House of Commons, he looks like a square peg in a round hole. At least for the time being, his famous prosecutorial skills are wasted on a Liberal prime minister that too many New Democrats for comfort like better than they do their own leader.

At year's end, Harper is headed for political retirement but not mostly for what the Duffy trial has brought to light. The betting is that Mulcair — whose oratory feats on the Senate turned out to be wasted on the country's voters — will not be far behind.

As for Duffy, except among a handful of allegedly profligate senators, his ultimate fate is a matter of relative indifference.

The Senate saga was the biggest political drama of the last federal decade but it earned none of its main actors a curtain call.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

A lengthy disruption over Katie the dog gives me hope

Toronto ground to a halt for two hours yesterday over the life-and-death drama of Katie, the German shepherd.

The north-south subway line was out of service while transit workers rescued the dog from the track rails, where she mysteriously got caught.

Media live-tweeted updates from the scene (“Did she make it?” my colleagues kept asking as they checked Twitter) and a few posted photos of Katie on a stretcher, wrapped in a bloodied blanket. For some, it was just too much.

“@680NEWS DELETE THIS INSENSITIVE PICTURE Would you post a picture of a person trapped on tracks? #topoli #Katie” tweeted @Hohummm.

“RIP” wrote another, after news broke Katie had been put down. “Very sad incident on the TTC tracks today,” the mayor tweeted.

What kind people live in this city, I thought, as a dog swallowed our short attention spans and #katie started trending across Toronto. For others, that was all too much, too.

“Shuttle buses, thousands of people having their afternoon commute ruined, for a dog,” an acquaintance texted. “Would the line have been shut for a raccoon? A squirrel? A rat?”

“What an incredible waste,” he went on. “I hope the irresponsible dog owner gets the bill.”

This is, to quote my acquaintance, an “incredible

example of something,” or perhaps two things: our capacity to care, and our capacity to care on a scale.

A few years ago, researchers tested people's sympathy for humans (adult and baby) and dogs (adult and puppy).

“The ‘winner’ was not the puppy but the human infant. The puppy, however, came in a close second with the adult dog not far behind,” Wired magazine reported, while noting that another study found people are more willing to save their personal pet than a “foreign tourist.”

This could be considered depressing, but I don't think so. First, everyone hates tourists. More importantly, a lengthy disruption over a dog gives me cause for hope.

It shows that people do care about other beings, despite the common assumption we're living in the most selfish, dehumanizing society created.

Normally, shutdowns turn trains and subway stations into sweltering hellholes. This time, they were hellholes with a heart.

And I have faith the empathy hierarchy can be manipulated.

I'm sure we'll one day learn about the superior intellect of the raccoon (perhaps even the rat) and start adopting them as pets, thus improving the likelihood we'd stall a subway to save one. Tourists, though — they're screwed.

THE MICROTREND: Battle roy-owl



The forest isn't big enough for both of them. A turf war has broken out in the Pacific Northwest, and the instigator is the barred owl. Habitat degradation in the Prairies has been driving the hearty invasive species west into the stomping grounds of the northern spotted owl. And the barred owl is having a hoot out-eating and out-breeding everything in its path. Everywhere it goes, the spotted owl is declining fast: By up to 77 per cent in Washington and 68 per cent in Oregon since 1985, says a new U.S. study. Hardly a handful are left in B.C. As if it wasn't tough enough out there for a spotted owl: Development has destroyed the old-growth trees where it likes to nest and pushed it away from its favourite prey — a major problem for these polka-dotted picky eaters. The areas where spotted owl populations are sliding slowest have gotten human help with removing the nasty new neighbours. SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST

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Big Bang's big lead up

With Sheldon and Amy about to have sex on the long-running sitcom, here's a look back at key moments in their relationship. Beware: spoilers ahead. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



ALL PHOTOS: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/ISTOCK/CONTRIBUTED

MIDSEASON FINALE

The Opening Night Excitation

For nine seasons, the sexuality of Sheldon Cooper (Jim Parsons) on The Big Bang Theory has been a rich source of speculation. Essays devoted to his asexuality, sexual orientation and overall social survival skills have graced publications big and small, sending viewers into a frenzy when the character finally settled into a relationship with Amy Farrah Fowler (Mayim Bialik). Still, the couple could barely hold hands in public, let alone make out or get physical between the sheets. Until now, that is. On Thursday's midseason finale (8 p.m. on CTV and CBS), The Opening Night Excitation, Sheldon decides to skip the opening night of Star Wars to spend Amy's birthday with her now that they're back together. His gift? Finally giving in to coitus. "Believe it or not they have been dating on and off for five-and-a-half years now, and that was enough time for Amy to wait," showrunner Steven Molaro told Torstar News Service. "It just seemed like the perfect culmination of their breakup story arc, especially with the upcoming release of Star Wars." Molaro was able to lend an insider's perspective to some of the biggest Sheldon and Amy moments on The Big Bang Theory, and what they mean now that the couple has officially "hooked up."



SEASON 7, EPISODE 15,

The first (real) kiss

Sheldon may have first kissed Amy to prove a point, but 11 seconds later it became clear that he liked it a lot more than he thought he would. Turns out even a man who aspired to be as emotionless as Spock can get weak in the knees. "We love these characters and they're real to us," Molaro says. "I remember when we were writing that kiss on the train, we weren't fighting in the writers' room, but there was a tension and a heat to our debating how it should play out."



SEASON 8, EPISODE 8

The first "I love you"

Sheldon may have been freaked out by prom, but he had no qualms about how he felt toward Amy. When she couldn't spit out the words "I love you," he went first with a sweet little, "I love you, too." "There was definitely some heated discussion about how exactly it should go down, but when we landed on the thought that Amy was struggling to get the words out, and that their first I love you was actually an I love you too, that seemed really interesting and appealing to us," Molaro says.



SEASON 4, EPISODE 20

The sex rumour

Before Thursday night, the closest Amy and Sheldon got to being intimate was when they decided to put a gossip theory to the test: by spreading the rumour that they had sex. "When Penny (Kaley Cuoco) tells Koothrappali (Kunal Nayyar) that Sheldon and Amy were going to be intimate, Koothrappali said, 'Shut your ass.' . . . We were talking about how funny that was to us."

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Empire's emotional toll

THE SHOW: *Empire*, Season 2,
Episode 10 (City/Fox)
THE MOMENT: The Spit

Record mogul Cookie Lyon (Taraji P. Henson) is having quite the day. Award nominations are being announced, and her ex-husband Lucious (Terrence Howard) and two sons are candidates. She's hosting a concert at the prison where she did 17 years.

She's running interference for her openly gay son, who is secretly dating a woman (Alicia Keys). And she's racing to a boardroom vote, because scheming lesbian Mimi (Marissa Tomei) wants to kick Lucious out. Plus, she's doing it all in a skintight leather dress and a massive black-and-white striped fur chubbie. Just as Cookie's youngest son, Hakeem, is casting the deciding vote, who sidles in but Camilla (Naomi Campbell) — Hakeem's ex-girlfriend, and Tomei's new wife! Sporting a huge fur chubbie of her own! Camilla smirks. She has it rigged. Cookie spits in her face.

Wowza! Five other series put together won't dazzle you half as much as five min-



Five other series put together won't dazzle as much as five minutes of Taraji P. Henson in *Empire*.

utes of *Empire*. Taraji P. Henson alone would be enough, but then there's her wardrobe! Plus production numbers (dancers on hoverboards! Singers in gold-spiked hot pants!). Major plot twists eight times an hour! And heart-felt speeches (prison is hard on women! Human sexuality is fluid! Black lives matter!). The spit isn't even the climax of this episode: a pregnant

woman gets pushed down the stairs! A man storms in with a gun! Lucious and his son become rival nominees! Every week it's like this — I collapse on the sofa so spent that I want a cigarette. And I don't smoke.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

(cue angels singing)

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Call it magic, call it theory, call it true

LOST CIVILIZATION

Author Graham Hancock is back with alt history sequel

Sue Carter

For Metro Canada



Twenty years ago, when Graham Hancock's book *Fingerprints of the Gods* was first published, it caused quite the stir among archaeologists, historians and conspiracy theorists. After years of research, the U.K. journalist hypothesized that 12,800 years ago, a massive, cataclysmic comet had hit the Earth, essentially wiping out a highly advanced ancient civilization. The remaining survivors then canvassed the world, landing in such places as Egypt, Turkey and Peru, in hopes of spreading their wisdom. Some of those sages or magicians as they were known, were responsible for constructing such wonders as the Sphinx, which Hancock's book suggests actually predated the ancient Egyptians.

Although Hancock's theories of a lost civilization were dismissed by experts (he's been referred to as both a pseudoscientist and a "Pyramidiot"), readers didn't care — and neither did he. The book sold more than 7 million copies worldwide, and turned Hancock into an icon of the "alternative history" movement. He has now returned with more evidence to back up his first book with its sequel, *Magicians of the Gods*.

Hancock still has his fair share of naysayers, but it's a new generation of younger fans who showed up at his recent sold-out 22-stop tour across the U.S. and Canada. His message is appealing to younger, social-media-savvy readers, many of who are cynical about old-school power structures in the aftermath of whistleblowers such as Julian Assange and Edward Snowden.

"There is a deep distrust of authority now. It's grounded; it's not a conspiracy theory. We know that we've been lied to quite often, for example, about the Iraq War. I think those lies have devalued the currency of authority," says Hancock, who describes *Magicians of the Gods* as a fundamentally rebellious book. "It's not enough for an archaeologist to say any-

more, 'Look, I know this is how things are.' It turns people off now. They'd rather see people engage with the ideas."

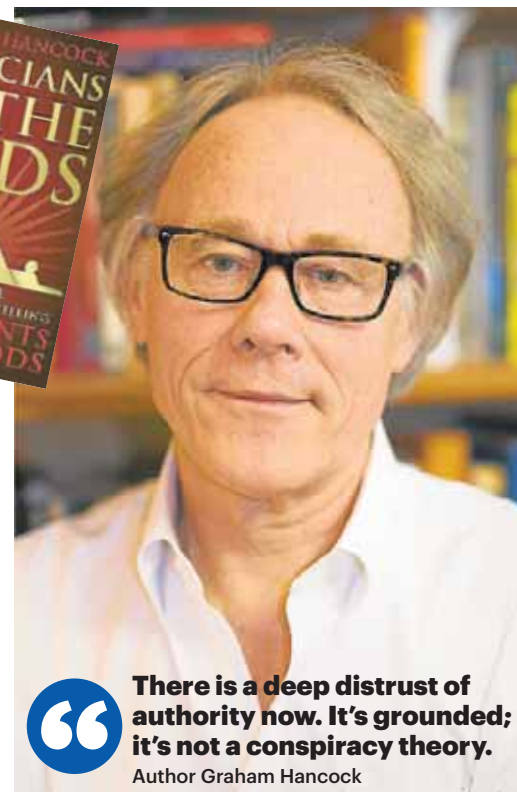
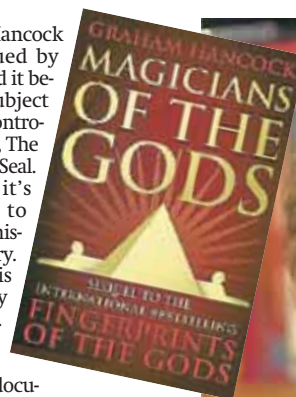
As Hancock was writing his first book, he says he couldn't "point out that smoking gun," but that within the last eight years, mainstream science journals have presented more evidence that prove his theory about the massive extinction. Perhaps the most challenging or troublesome idea in *Magicians of the Gods* is the suggestion that a 20-mile-wide fragment of the original comet is potentially going to hit Earth in 2030 — an event referred to in various cultures as the "Great Return." When asked how we should prepare for such an occasion, Hancock says that as a journalist, it's his role to report the evidence as he uncovers it, not suggest a course of action.

Hancock's background as a reporter is how he was introduced to alternative history in the first place. During the 1970s and '80s, he covered East Africa for the *London Times* and *The Economist*. While in Ethiopia he became intrigued with a story about how the lost covenant of the ark has been hidden in the country for centuries. Although experts debunked

the claim, Hancock was intrigued by the story and it became the subject of his first controversial book, *The Sign and the Seal*.

"I think it's important to realize that history is a story. And that it is often a story told by men. The further back you go, the less documents there are to draw your historical narratives from. The more it becomes a matter of speculation, and putting bits and pieces together," he says. "It's really a suggestion, an interpretation, a construing of data. I don't think it's healthy for this very important data about our past, who we are, and what we're doing here to be entrusted solely in the hands of a very small group of scholars. Twenty years ago it was enough for professor X or Y to say this is impossible, it can't be true. But that doesn't work today."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



There is a deep distrust of authority now. It's grounded; it's not a conspiracy theory.

Author Graham Hancock

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In this fresh instalment of *Vinyl Cafe* stories, the more things change, the more they stay the same ...

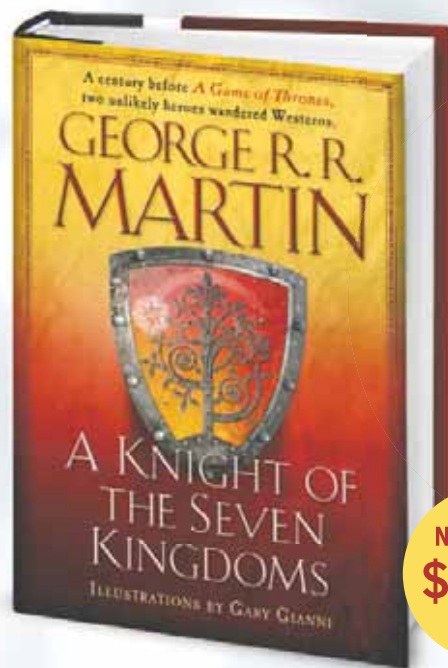


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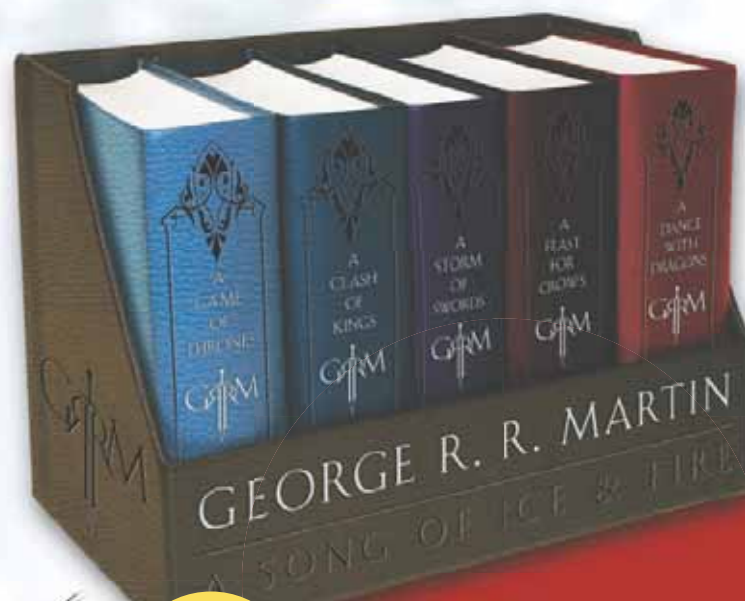
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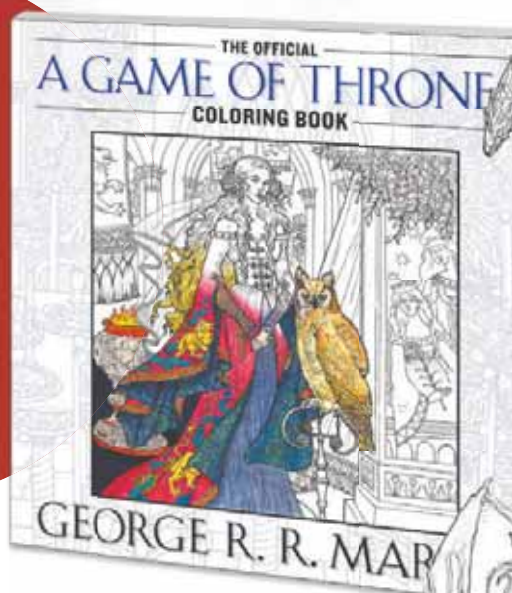
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GOSSIP BRIEFS

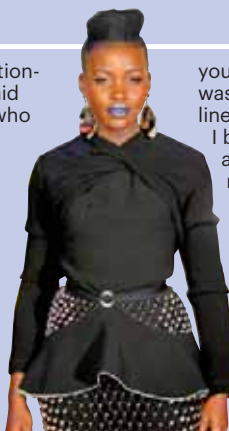
Lupita Nyong'o's clueless Star Wars audition

Hollywood can keep you busy, especially after you've won an Oscar for your film debut.

That might explain why Lupita Nyong'o didn't quite connect the dots when she had a meeting with J.J. Abrams a couple of years ago.

"I didn't really know what

I was auditioning for," said Nyong'o, who plays the alien Maz Kanata in *The Force Awakens*, the latest *Star Wars* film. "I guess I thought I should find work,



you know? I was so busy, I was working with adrenaline, so I went in and out. I barely remember that audition, and then two months later (Abrams) called me."

So what did this mystery audition entail, exactly?

"I remember crouching around and using my hands as a gun." Sounds... fun?

NED EHRBAR/
METRO HOLLYWOOD

Lamar Odom is 'not doing great'

Not to bum you out too much so close to the holidays, but here's an update on convalescing brothel-patronizing Lamar Odom.

"He's not doing great," a source tells Entertainment Tonight. "His speech is still slurred and he can barely walk on his own yet. He forgets a lot of people's names — sometimes even his own. He definitely has some

memory loss."

Those close to the former NBA star are still hoping for him to be "mentally fully recovered" in a year and a half's time, but the progress is frustratingly slow. Khloe Kardashian, for her part, posted a video to her

website recently expressing her hopes for the future.

"Lord knows I've had stress and anxiety lately," she said. "This year has been absolutely horrible, but it's almost done. I'm just praying that 2016 will be better. It has to be."

NED EHRBAR/METRO
HOLLYWOOD



THE VOICE

Road getting rocky for Blake and Gwen

I'm sure it's just a total, complete coincidence that just after the latest season of *The Voice* ends, we get our first report of trouble in the romance between co-coaches Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton.

Not suspicious at all, this.

So the duo, both recently divorced and involved in a "romance" that's been played up for the cameras during the most recent season of *The Voice*, are said to be hitting a rough patch after a backstage incident in which Shelton left his phone behind in the makeup room and Stefani witnessed a text message come in from his ex-wife, Miranda Lambert, according to *In Touch*.

"Gwen saw it and lost it. She found Blake and asked to speak to him privately, but he said he couldn't right then and there. She had

tears running down her face and went and locked herself in her dressing room," a source says.

"Gwen has seen texts between Blake and Miranda. She's really a mess over this."

Is she, though?

Or is this all part of the predetermined plan? When did I become so cynical?

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

**The Weeknd in hot water with Bella Hadid**

PARTY SCENE

The Canadian was reportedly spotted getting cozy with fans

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



When will people learn that parties are not the best places to misbehave? You know, because other people can see you?

Singer The Weeknd apparently didn't realize this when he decided to get with a pair of eager young fans at a private party celebrating the release of his new album — a party from which 19-year-old model girlfriend (as in she's a model and his girlfriend, not a model girlfriend,) Bella Hadid was conspicuously absent.

"He went to an after-party at a private house in L.A.," a source tells *Life & Style*, where he hit it off with a blonde and



The Weeknd's girlfriend, model Bella Hadid, was not present at a steamy L.A. party. GETTY IMAGES

a brunette.

"He was making out with both of them, going back and forth. Then they disappeared

into a bedroom together."

But it's totally cool, I'm sure he just wanted to explain to them in private how much he

loves his girlfriend.

Now, maybe I'm a little out of touch, but what's a Weeknd?

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Sparkle and shine for the holidays

SEASONAL DECOR

Ideas and items to add effervescence to your home

Even if you practise restraint in your everyday home decor, you might be inclined toward a bit of sizzle and sparkle when the holidays roll around.

The season is a great excuse to let your festive flag fly, so to speak, and few things say “festive” like decor that’s got some glitz, glitter or gilding. Below are some resources to get things shimmering (Note: The stores with no Canadian locations do ship to Canada):

Spray it

“My go-to holiday look each season? Winter wonderland meets glamour,” says New York designer Genevieve Gorder.

She uses metallic and glittery spray paint to add personalized flair. If you’re on a budget or are fairly crafty, this is a good option. Jazz up stuff you already have like terra cotta pots, tea light holders, candlesticks, picture frames and serving trays. Valspar has a line of paints that stick to most materials, and come in both opaque and translucent finishes. (valspar.com)

Glitter 101

If you gather bare branches on a walk or buy some from a garden centre, find instructions for glittering them up at momtastic.com. After painting them, spray with adhesive, and then dip them in both glitter and clear crystalline sprinkles. The sprinkles add an icy extra touch.

If you’re tight on work space (glittering is a messy business), consider glitter in a tube. Jo-Ann craft stores have Stickles, glitter glue that comes in a bunch of colours and is easy to dab or swab. (joann.com)

Around the home

Making a tabletop holiday village is easy and inexpensive. Got some plastic toy animals lying around? Give them a coat of metallic paint. A stack of newspapers or old magazines? Transform them with a few folds into trees, and spray them with glitter paint.

You can build a few houses out of chipboard, paint and powdered glitter, and create your tableau; it’s a fun project to do with kids or friends. Martha Stewart has instructions at marthastewart.com.

Non-traditional

For those looking to decorate outside the traditional red/green or blue/white realm, Target has a collection of glittery faux bottlebrush trees in colours like copper, orchid, turquoise, purple and mocha. Seasonal greetings stencilled in metallic sequins bring sparkle to the sofa on throw pillows. (target.com)

Dress the base of the Christmas tree with an organza skirt dusted with glitter from Kohl’s. Or Zazzle has a snazzy one in shimmering lemon yellow. (kohls.com; zazzle.ca)

At the table

You can set the holiday table with subtle shine using Sandy Chilewich’s brass or silver Drift placemats, which have an angular, geometric design inspired by woodblock prints. Add a few slim white, copper or silver glass trees from CB2 for a tablecape that’s minimalist yet merry. (chilewich.com; cb2.com)

Outdoors

Bring the bling outdoors, too, with large-scale decorations. Wayfair has a set of sparkly, lighted gift boxes. Frontgate’s gold, silver or red ornaments come with fibre-optic and LED lights. (wayfair.com; frontgate.com)

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ball ornaments banded in glittering filigree are a chic and elegant addition to the tree. Far left: A Baroque paper poinsettia ball ornament in a midnight hue, trimmed with gold glitter, adds drama.

JOSS AND MAIN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Embellish items you may have around the house, like trays and votive holders and picture frames, with glitter and metallic spray paint. VALSPAR VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ A POP OF PERSONALITY

Cold and critters

Z Gallerie offers boxes of gold or silver acrylic “ice gems” that look like ice cubes. In a clear vase, they’d be a great base for white painted branches or greenery. Or scatter them along a faux fur runner with some tiny twinkle lights. The retailer also has a series of silver-plated ceramic penguins, and sexy starburst ornaments with a retro vibe. (zgallerie.com)

Round and jolly

Paper poinsettia balls from Joss and Main in a dramatic midnight hue and edged in golden glitter bring baroque élan to the mantel. Filigree-wrapped balls and mini tiara ornaments add royal style. (jossandmain.com)



Silver-plated ceramic penguins add a dash of chic swagger to holiday decor.

Z GALLERIE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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P.K. Subban weighed in on Pee-Kay vs. Pay-Kah: "Since we're changing the pronunciation of my name, just start calling me Denzel."



SENATORS NATIONS' CAPITALS DUKE IT OUT Dmitry Orlov of the Capitals falls to the ice in front of the Senators' Alex Chiasson on Wednesday in Washington. For the story, go to metronews.ca PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Redblacks sign GM and head coach to extensions

The Ottawa Redblacks signed general manager Marcel Desjardins and head coach Rick Campbell to multi-year contract extensions on Wednesday.



Rick Campbell

Desjardins has served as architect of the CFL team since its inaugural season in 2014 while Campbell guided the club to an East Division title last season. The Redblacks had a 12-6 record in the regular season before falling to the Edmonton Eskimos in the Grey Cup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada to hold World Cup camp in Ottawa

While Toronto will be the host of the World Cup of Hockey, plenty of other cities will get a chance to be part of the lead-up to the tournament.

Canada will hold its training camp in Ottawa and play exhibition games there, as well as Columbus and Pittsburgh.

Team North America, made up of players age 23-and-under from Canada and the United States, will hold camp in Montreal and Quebec City along with Team Europe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fury re-sign de Guzman

Veteran Canadian international Julian de Guzman has re-signed with Ottawa Fury FC of the North American Soccer League.



Julian de Guzman

GETTY IMAGES

De Guzman, 34, helped the Fury to the NASL final, although he had to miss the championship game to captain Canada in a World Cup qualifier. Ottawa lost 3-2 to the New York Cosmos.

Fellow Canadian midfielder Mauro Eustaquio also re-signed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Goalies' loss a net gain

NHL

Talks of standardizing equipment to boost scoring

Like many of his counterparts, New Jersey Devils goalie Cory Schneider had an easy choice when presented with the option of larger nets or smaller equipment in the NHL's latest bid to boost goal-scoring.

Don't mess with the nets. "Absolutely. I think we have to explore every avenue we can to maybe change the gear before we change the nets," Schneider said. "It would be like changing the size of the pucks."

Reducing the rubber isn't going to happen, but it appears the era of Michelin Man-like goalies — outfitted with bulging chest and shoulder pads, and wearing pants 14 sizes too big — might

+ REVISION

There is also a proposal to eliminate the trapezoid in each corner, where goalies are not allowed to handle the puck. This would in theory reward goalies with puck-handling ability, while creating the possibility for more turnovers for goalies who struggle in that area.

be drawing to a close.

The NHL and the NHL Players Association are in discussions to standardize goalie gear based on a player's size. The proposed rules would regulate pants, all upper-body pads and potentially introduce a more form-fitting jersey.

Goalies would have their equipment approved by the NHL, rather than dealing directly with manufacturers as they do now.

This would be the next step in a process that began in 2013-14, when the league started regulating the length of goalie leg pads.

The objectives are to increase scoring, place more emphasis on a goalie's skill and establish a more even playing field.

"I think that's the biggest insecurity of goaltending: 'What's he doing that I'm not doing?' or, 'Why does he look so big and I look so small?'" said Schneider, who has played a role in the discussions. "I think it's natural that the gear should fit your body, and not you should fit the gear."

Talks will continue

at the all-star game in Nashville next month. The new rules would have to be in

place by spring to allow time for the NHL to measure goalies and suppliers to manufacture the equipment before next season.

Pekka Rinne is fine with whatever is decided.

"It's always something," the Predators goalie said. "I'm sure something's going to happen to the gear. But still, it doesn't matter. Goalies are going to be good, no matter what."

He does have a unique idea on increasing scoring.

"Make a rule that guys can't work out during the summer," Rinne said, breaking into a grin. "Just take it easy and not do anything."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cory Schneider is all for reducing the size of goalie equipment rather than the net.

GETTY IMAGES

MLB IN BRIEF

\$7M will bring Napoli to Ohio, source says

A person familiar with the deal says the Cleveland Indians have an agreement with free agent first baseman Mike Napoli on a \$7 million, one-year contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Napoli must pass a physical said Napoli's deal includes \$3 million in performance bonuses. Last season, Napoli hit .224 with 18 home runs and 50 RBIs with Boston and Texas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Catcher Molina's thumb on mend after surgery No. 2

St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina has undergone a second operation on his injured left thumb and will be in a cast for up to five weeks.

Molina had the surgery because he was still had pain in the thumb he had initially had an operation on in mid-October after the Cardinals were eliminated in the NL Division Series.

The team is hopeful the eight-time Gold Glove winner and seven-time All-Star can return by opening day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven-player swap sends Reds' Frazier to Chicago

The White Sox were looking to add some pop while solidifying third base, and they are counting on Todd Frazier to provide it.

The All-Star third baseman was acquired from the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday as part of a three-team, seven-player trade that also included the LA Dodgers.

L.A. got second baseman Micah Johnson, Frankie Montas and Trayce Thompson from the White Sox, and Cincinnati got infielders Brandon Dixon and Jose Peraza and outfielder Scott Schebler from the Dodgers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McGregor warned from above about weight move

UFC

Top lightweight pair dismiss new champ's chances before they clash

UFC featherweight champion Conor McGregor has vowed to move up in weight soon to fight for the lightweight title. The two men he could face for that belt are both warning him to pick on somebody his own size.

UFC lightweight champion Rafael Dos Anjos faces Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone on Saturday night in a title fight in Orlando. UFC President Dana White says the winner's next bout will be against McGregor if the popular Irish champion decides to move up from 145 to 155 pounds.

Dos Anjos and Cerrone dislike each other, but they agree McGregor's fists wouldn't pack quite so much punch in the larger weight class.

"He gets a lot of hype, and he's a good fighter," Dos Anjos said. "But if he comes to the lightweight division, he's going to get hurt." McGregor ended featherweight champion Jose Aldo's 10-year, 18-fight winning streak last Saturday with a stunning knockout just 13 seconds into their title fight at UFC 194 in Las Vegas.

Afterwards, McGregor repeated his intention to become a



He gets a lot of hype, and he's a good fighter. But if he comes to the lightweight division, he's going to get hurt.

Rafael Dos Anjos

simultaneous two-belt champion, although he isn't sure when he will try it.

"He's too small to come to 155," Cerrone said. "His jaw is powerful. He's got good talk. But he won't fare (well) with the top (lightweight fighters). He might do good with the lower-ranked guys if they do the same thing they did with the (featherweights) and pick and choose his guys, but if they throw him in the (lightweight) top 10, no way."

McGregor's celebrity has grown past every UFC fighter except Ronda Rousey, largely

because he has recorded devastating stoppage victories in five straight fights and six of his seven UFC bouts. His vicious striking power has backed up his bold public pronouncements about taking over both divisions.

"I'm looking to replicate what I've achieved in a previous (promotion): a two-weight world champion held consecutively," McGregor said moments after beating Aldo. "I said I would do it, and I will do it."

Cerrone under-

stands why McGregor is entertaining the prospect of a lightweight title run. McGregor acknowledges that his weight cut to 145 pounds is grueling, and his coach would prefer that McGregor no longer attempt such dramatic weight loss in the days before his fights. Cerrone just doesn't think McGregor's power will work as well on bigger opponents, even if his gift of gab stays strong.

"He's a salesman. But if he wants to sell the fight, I don't have a problem with that."

If he



He's too small to come to 155. His jaw is powerful. He's got good talk. But he won't fare (well) with the top (fighters).

Donald Cerrone

wants to pump up the fight, I'll slap him around and call him a schoolgirl," Cerrone said. Although Cerrone thinks it's a bad idea for McGregor, he would welcome the payday that will come to the opponent lucky enough to be matched with McGregor's pay-per-view drawing power.

The Brazilian laboured in the UFC for 18 bouts before finally beating Anthony Pettis to claim the 155-pound title. "It took so many fights for me to get my title shot, but if the UFC thinks I should fight him, I'm going to do it," said Dos Anjos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ireland's Conor McGregor recently defeated Jose Aldo of Brazil to become featherweight champion.

GETTY IMAGES

SKIING

Hudec's knee problem rules him out for season

Jan Hudec's ski racing season is over before it began.

The Olympic bronze medalist in super-G in 2014 needs to treat and rehabilitate his problematic right knee.

Hudec had

surgery in January on a torn meniscus that sidelined him last season. He returned to the Canada's alpine ski team for this season, but the 34-year-old Californian had a setback while training in Alberta in November.

Hudec withdrew from the season-opening downhill World



Jan Hudec
GETTY IMAGES

Cup in Lake Louise, Alta. He pushed out of the start hut in the super-G there, but didn't finish the race.

Hudec expects to undergo knee surgery again next month, which will be the eighth time on his right knee. He intends to return for the 2016-17 season.

"After coming back from surgery in late January 2015, I felt great leading up to the first races of the 2015-16 season," Hudec said Wednesday in a statement from Alpine Canada.

"After a minor injury just days before the World Cup in Lake Louise, I had to re-evaluate my

commitment to ski racing and my future as a competitor.

"After several meetings with ACA staff, trainers and the medical team, I have decided to sit this season out. It will give me a chance to get my knee repaired."

When he tied with American Bode Miller for super-G bronze at the 2014 Winter Games, Hudec was the first Canadian in 20 years to win an alpine ski medal.

Hudec also won silver in men's downhill at the 2007 world championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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RECIPE French Onion Soup



PHOTO: MAMA VISENTE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You won't believe you made your favourite pub food and, better yet, you decide how high to croutons get piled.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 cups beef stock
- Half a stick of baguette
- 1 cup grated Gruyère and Parmesan mixed

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, melt butter and toss onion slices, garlic, sugar, thyme and pinch of salt and pepper. Cook over medium low heat for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring frequently, until onions soften.
2. Sprinkle the flour over the onion mixture and stir. Add the vinegar and a cup of stock. Stir well, scraping the bottom of the pot to deglaze. Add the rest of the stock and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Turn your oven onto broil. Cut bread into 1-inch thick slices. Cut as many slices as bowls of soup you'll be serving. Lay them on a cookie sheet and now put a layer of the cheese mix on each piece. Broil in the oven until cheese melts and bread is golden brown.
4. Remove bread from oven and cut into pieces. Ladle the soup into bowls and top with a slice of bread's worth of croutons.

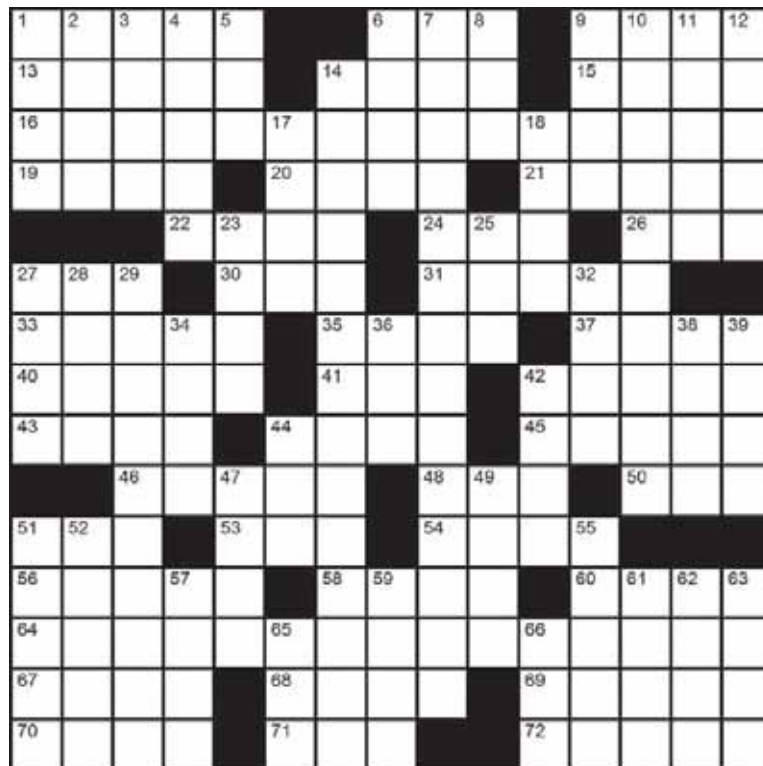
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Kate __ (Designer brand)
6. In past times
9. '___' Edmonton
13. 'Ripley's Believe It ___!'
14. Ocean colour, en francais
15. Thomas Augustine __: "Rule, Britannia" composer
16. Louisbourg... Does this in the 18th century on Cape Breton Island: 3 wds.
19. Buy and __, as stock
20. Jam in
21. Disconcerted
22. Concrete chunk
24. Use up
26. Tiny tallnesses
27. "20/20" network
30. __, hurry (Rushed)
31. Folklore fellow Tom
33. Writer's ache
35. Uncommon, to Caesar
37. Blunders
40. 6:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
41. Jackie O's hubby
42. Blood, __ & Tears
43. Greek portico
44. International oil gr.
45. As per #14-Down...
54. Towel holders
56. "Over the Rainbow" co-composer Harold
58. Make a scarf
60. Nile wader
51. Ship-shaped table-



- ware ornament
53. Poetic preposition
54. Towel holders
56. "Over the Rainbow" co-composer Harold
58. Make a scarf
60. Nile wader
51. Ship-shaped table-

- pudding Figgy Duff or Quebec meat pie Tourtiere, for example: 2 wds.
67. Forum outfit
68. Take __ the waist, as alterations: 2 wds.
69. "Home __" (1990)
70. Original space

- matter
71. Grey hue
72. Outdoes

DOWN

1. Cries
2. Sister on "Charmed"
3. Indigo
4. As per #14-

- Down... "Valley of the __" (1967)
5. Plane's take-off info
6. __ Romeo (Sports car)
7. Pom-pommed winterwear item in the Hudson's Bay Company Collection,

- Wool __ Tuque
8. Their-not
9. Wild West's Wyatt
10. Its aroma draws customers into the bakery each day: 2 wds.
11. Beginning
12. Breaks
14. Vancouver-born actress who starred on the show at #45-Across and in the movie at #4-Down: 2 wds.
17. Skim
18. Ballet skirt
23. Gloss-placing spots
25. "Gotchal"
27. Pretends
28. England denizen, e.g.
29. Soldier's disguise
32. Kitten's whimper
34. Recipe result
36. 'Hect' ending
38. Sprint
39. Brood
42. Accelerated
44. Portland's state, briefly
47. Ms. Collette
49. Oscar-winning composer Nino
51. Dapper
52. Mr. Flynn
55. Sashay
57. Cheese type
59. Old Testament sailor
61. Life stories, briefly
62. Fails to be
63. Tal Bachman's "So High"
65. Ms. Carrere
66. Sci. spot

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
In your rush to get ahead of the game you may take on too much. You sometimes have the strength to do two or even three jobs at once but if you do too much now you may regret it later on. Slow down.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you stick your nose in other people's business you may regret it. Think how you would feel if others were to involve themselves in your private affairs without being invited.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Is family more important than work? That's the question you need to answer today. Eventually you'll find a stable balance between your home life and your more worldly ambitions.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Keep opinions to yourself. There's no point trying to persuade others to see things your way — they can't, it is beyond them. Go your own way. You don't need public support.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Keep your options open and listen to advice from people with expertise. You may not like to admit that others know best but in some areas they do and you should be big enough to acknowledge that fact.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You'll wish you were some place else today. But no matter how difficult the situation you have to face you'll conquer it before the day is over. You're tougher than you realize Virgo!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If your energy takes a nose-dive then stop what you're doing and take a break. Each hour you push yourself beyond your limits will take at least a day to recover. Be kind to yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You can't seem to shake off the feeling that something bad is going to happen. Most likely it's all in your head but steer clear of situations you can't fully control. Just in case.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Material and professional success is not the most important thing in your life. What matters most now is that you take the opportunity to improve your domestic situation. Work can wait but loved ones cannot.

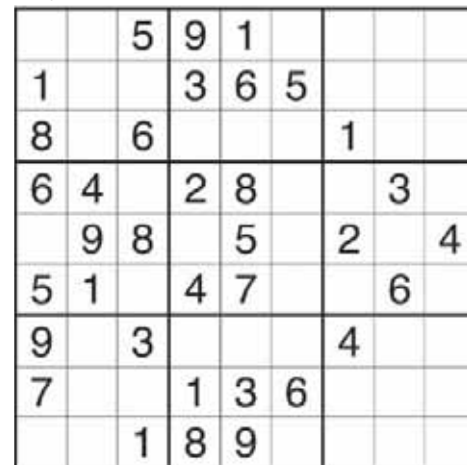
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may find it hard to get started today but once you do you'll amaze everyone by how quickly you get through your workload. Start early and the evening should be free for more enjoyable activities.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Resist the urge to point out other people's faults and failings. And don't cut corners or do anything underhand — or it could be your faults and failings that are made public.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
It's likely you will clash with someone in a position of authority. Stand your ground and refuse to be intimidated but also be ready to meet them halfway if they suggest a compromise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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